

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A copy method creates a copy-on-write relationship between specified source data and an original image cache for updates from a designated host application. This copy-on-write relationship involves, responsive to at least a first update of each item of source data, writing an original image of said updated item of data and its associated address to the original image cache. An application outboard of the designated host application is utilized to copy all source data to secondary media without regard to whether the data has been updated since creating the copy-on-write relationship. A specified amount of data is copied from the original image cache to the secondary media. The secondary media therefore contains contents of the source data as of the moment of forming the copy-on-write relationship.

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